

## PRISONERS OF WAR

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### *Revolutionary War*

For information relating to Revolutionary War prisoners of war consult M247, *Papers of the Continental Congress, 1774–1789*. This microfilm publication reproduces the Records of the Continental and Confederate Congresses, 1774–89, and documents the activities of these pre-Federal Congresses in a wide range of areas, including military, foreign, fiscal, and naval affairs. The records are arranged in a numerical sequence of 196 series referred to as item numbers.

There is information on prisoners scattered throughout the papers. They include a printed report that provides a list of British officers taken at Trenton, New Jersey, to a detailed accounting of several dozen American prisoners of war detained on a ship in Charleston Harbor. The Papers of the Continental Congress include records relating to American prisoners of war as well as British and loyalist prisoners.

Another good source relating to Revolutionary War prisoners is M246, *Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775–1783*. Roll number 135 of this publication contains about 30 pages of names of American prisoners of war. There are several lists containing name, rank, colony of residence, and regiment. These lists are mainly centered around 1780, but the dates cover most of the war. There is also a short catalog of files containing names of British, Loyalist, and American prisoners of war during the American Revolution. In some cases prisoners of war may be found on M847, *Special Index to Numbered Records in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, 1775–1783*. This microfilm publication reproduces an alphabetical

card index to names that appear in numbered record books or numbered unbound documents relating to the Revolutionary War. If the index cites a manuscript number consult M859, *Miscellaneous Numbered Records (the Miscellaneous File) in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, 1775–1790s*. If the index cites a volume number consult M853, *Numbered Books Concerning Military Operations and Service, Pay and Settlement of Accounts, and Supplies in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records*.

### *War of 1812*

To begin research on War of 1812 prisoners of war consult M1747, *Index to Records Relating to War of 1812 Prisoners of War*. The index indicates the manuscript number and, within a multipage manuscript, it also contains the page number where you can find information concerning the indexed person. If available, it also notes the soldier's rank and the regiment and company in which he served. The index is arranged alphabetically by soldier's name and is the key to accessing M2019, *Records Relating to War of 1812 Prisoners of War*. The Adjutant General's Office arranged, numbered, and indexed these records. The office assigned the records manuscript number ranging from 1 to 94. Some are oddly numbered such as 10 1/2 and 92 1/3, apparently these records were similar topics to the whole number (e.g. 10 and 92) and were later inserted into the sequence. The manuscript number usually appears on the reverse side of the document, along with a number written in a circle which refers to the number of names for which an index card was created. The records are arranged numerically by manuscript number.

### *Civil War*

Most information taken from records relating to Union prisoners of war can be found in the individual's compiled military service record. More detailed records may be found in Records of the Office of the Commissary General of Prisoners, RG 249. This record group contains a variety of series of registers, rolls, lists, and reports relating to Federal prisoners of war including information on paroled and exchanged Federal prisoners.



*Confederate prisoners standing along a fence in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. (200-CC-2288)*

If you are researching a Confederate soldier, sailor, or marine who was captured during the war consult prisoner-of-war records found on M598, *Selected Records of the War Department Relating to Confederate Prisoners of War, 1861–1865*. This microfilm publication contains lists and registers of prisoners of war and records related to individual prisons or stations. Records related to all prisoners include: register of prisoners; register of deaths of prisoners (compiled by the Office of the Commissary General of Prisoners); registers of prisoners' applications for release and decisions; registers related to release of prisoners; registers relating to prisoners' possessions; and registers of deaths of prisoners (compiled by the Surgeon General's Office). These records are followed by the records of individual prisons or stations including Alton, Illinois; Bowling Green, Virginia; Camp Butler, Illinois; Camp Chase, Ohio; Cincinnati, Ohio; Fort Columbus, New York; Department of the Cumberland; Fort Delaware, Delaware; Camp Douglas, Illinois; Elmira, New York; Gratiot and Myrtle Streets Prisons, St. Louis, Missouri; Department of the Gulf; Hart Island, New York; Hilton Head, South

Carolina; Johnson's Island, Ohio; Knoxville, Tennessee; Fort Lafayette, New York; Little Rock, Arkansas; Louisville, Kentucky; Fort McHenry, Maryland; McLean Barracks, Cincinnati, Ohio; Memphis, Tennessee; Department of the Missouri; Camp Morton, Indiana; New Orleans, Louisiana; Newport News, Virginia; Department of the Ohio; Old Capitol Prison, Washington, DC; Point Lookout, Maryland; Richmond, Virginia; Rock Island Barracks, Illinois; Ship Island, Mississippi; Fort Warren, Massachusetts; Division of West Mississippi; and District of West Tennessee. Also consult RG 92, Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, entries 699 and 700, "Register of Confederate Soldiers and Sailors who Died in Federal Prisons and Military Hospitals in the North." Both entries are arranged alphabetically by city where the death occurred and thereunder by name of deceased. Entry 699 contains one volume dated 1913, and entry 700 contains two volumes dated 1914. The records have been reproduced on M918, *Register of Confederate Soldiers, Sailors, and Citizens Who Died in Federal Prisons and Military Hospitals in the North 1861–1865*. It contains individual burial information, generally arranged alphabetically by name of prison camp or other location where the deaths of Confederate prisoners occurred, and thereunder alphabetically by name of deceased. The register provides name, company, regiment, date of death, and number and location of grave of each individual interred. Some of the information is incomplete.

Some information can be found in Confederate compiled military service records (see the appropriate microfilm for the regiment you are researching) as well as in M260, *Records Relating to Confederate Naval and Marine Personnel*.

The U.S. Navy collected a variety of records after the war including some fragmentary Confederate muster rolls, shipping articles, clothing receipts, descriptive rolls, and payrolls related to confederate sailors and marines. These records are located in RG 45, Naval Records Collection of the Office of Naval Records and Library. Many of these records can be found in the Subject File, 1775–1910, RG 45, entry 464, and are reproduced as M1091, *Subject File of the Confederate States Navy, 1861–1865*. This series is arranged by primary and secondary subjects. The primary subjects include: naval ships (design, con-

structions, etc.); ordnance; communications; engineering; battles and casualties to ships; instructions; nautical technology and science; medical; personnel; operations of Naval ships and fleet units; bases (naval bases—including navy yards and stations); prisoners and prisons; merchant ships and commerce; governmental relationships; supplies; and pensions.

Of particular interest to those researching Confederate marines are subjects: “M” Medical (see MV Marine Corps–Miscellaneous); “N” Personnel (NV Marine Corps–Miscellaneous); “R” Prisoners and Prisons; “H” Engagements and Casualties to Ships; and “O” Operations of Naval Ships and Fleet Units. Subject file NA contains muster rolls, pay rolls, and lists of naval and marine personnel. Most of these records are related to vessels, stations, squadrons, and naval shore batteries. Subject file OV contains bills, vouchers, correspondence, certificates of deposit, invoices, abstracts of expenditures, accounts, receipts, special orders relating to provisions, clothing, equipment for marine detachments, returns of ordnance and ordnance stores, returns of clothing and equipment, and transportation requests.

The publication contains a series of records relating to the Confederate Navy that was originally part of a larger collection of naval documents known as the Subject File of the United States Navy, 1775–1910. The Confederate records were removed and consolidated into a separate record series in 1963 to facilitate research on the Confederate States Navy. Related official records of the Union Navy that dealt with Confederate prisoners of war and Confederate vessels were integrated into the new Confederate record series as well. Rolls 43–44 contain category “R” (Prisoners and Prisons) of the Subject File. The R category is further divided into the following subtopics: RB, Prisoner-of-War Rolls and Lists (Persons Captured by Union Forces); RE, Release and Exchange; RL, Paroles; and RV, Miscellaneous. Subtopic RB is arranged alphabetically by name of vessel and contains lists of captured Confederate naval personnel as well as foreign civilians and crewmen of captured blockade runners. Other subtopics are arranged by name of ship, naval station, or individual.

Also in RG 45, entry 464, Old Subject File and New Subject File under “R” contains two series with records relating to U.S. Navy and Marine Corps prisoners.